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TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

MORI/CDF per C05388084

1. VORONTSOV CALLED WITH AN ORAL NOTE FROM BREZHNEV TO  
THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS TO  
DEAL WITH THE ENERGY PROBLEM. THE NOTE READS AS FOLLOWS:

State Dept. review  
completed

"LEONID BREZHNEV ASKS TO CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT HIS  
GRATITUDE FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE AND QUICK REPLY ~~ON THE AMERICAN~~  
~~SIDE TO HIS~~ (BREZHNEV'S) CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING THE INITIATIVE  
OF THE PRESIDENT IN CALLING CERTAIN MEETINGS ON THE OIL PROBLEM.  
WE TAKE NOTE OF WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID CONCERNING THE POSSI-  
BILITY OF SOVIET UNION PARTICIPATION AS -- IN OBSERVER STATUS  
IN THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, THAT IS, THE CONFERENCE JOINTLY  
OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF OIL. SO FAR AS THE

IN AGREEMENT WITH DR. KISSINGER'S SUGGESTIONS TO HAVE IN THAT  
EFFECT AN EXCHANGE OF OPINION IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD PROPOSE  
TO START IT ON FEBRUARY 23TH. THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AT  
THOSE NEGOTIATIONS OR EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS WILL BE MR. OSIPOV  
THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW  
THE OPINION OF THE WHITE HOUSE WHETHER THIS DATE IS ACCEPTABLE  
TO THE AMERICAN SIDE FOR THE BEGINNING OF THIS EXCHANGE OF  
OPINIONS."

OSIPOV IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON AS A PART OF THE  
PATOLICHEV VISIT.

2. STATE HAS REQUESTED SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION FOR THE ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER WHO IS HERE BASICALLY FOR A SERIES OF FUND-RAISING SPEECHES. FRED BUZHARDT DOES NOT WANT TO PROVIDE THE PROTECTION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. HE IS FEARFUL THAT HE WILL COME UNDER SEVERE CRITICISM FOR PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES (HE SAYS HE IS UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE AS IT IS ON THE HILL OVER THE ENORMOUS COSTS OF FOREIGN DIGNITARIES PROTECTION). FRED SAYS HE WILL DO IT IF YOU BELIEVE IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL BUT, IN THE INTEREST OF PRESERVING THE PROGRAM AND FUNDING AS A WHOLE, HE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER NOT TO.

3. A REUTERS DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW STATES THAT GROMYKO LEFT MOSCOW TODAY ON AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

WARM REGARDS.